

S 2002

SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL 2002



A SPECIAL SECTION OF THE DAILY ASTORIAN

JUNE 21, 22 & 23, 2002
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TOYOTA CHRYSLER PLYMOUTH DODGE PONTIAC GMc JEEP TOYOTA

Welcome to the 2002 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival

Celebrating 35 years of Old Country festivities this year, Astoria's Scandinavian Midsummer Festival offers great fun for the entire family.

The annual festival began as one Brownie troop's tribute to Girl Scout founder Juliet Lowe. A Brownie troop under the direction of Astorians Carol Obie, Shirley Tinner and Nellie Norman was studying Norway as part of a citywide celebration planned by Girl Scouts in honor of Lowe. The Brownies had learned a Norwegian song and some Norwegian folk dances to present at the event, and had borrowed authentic Norwegian costumes made by Adelaide Sather of Astoria.

Soon the girls had been asked to repeat their performance at so many gatherings that several parents decided to form a children's Scandinavian folk dancing group, the Scandinavian Folk Dancers. The troupe has now grown into two children's groups, the Viking and Nordic Dancers, and an adult group called Scandia.

The festival itself actually began as a fund-raiser for the young dancers as a modern-day adaptation of an annual picnic and celebration held many years ago in Astoria by the Scandinavian lodges in the area, including the Danish Society, the Finnish Brotherhood, Ladies of Kaleva, Sons of Norway, Daughters of Norway and the Vasa Lodge. The dance group wanted to travel to Solvang, Calif., a Danish community north of Los Angeles.

The first event, in which area Scandinavian lodges pitched in to prepare a variety of Nordic dishes and to display and demonstrate old-country crafts and customs, was held at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds and drew approximately 2,500 visitors. Attendance steadily increased as the festival became known throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The original Scandinavian Folk Dancers disbanded around 1974. But the event which sent them to Solvang has brought many to Astoria, and promises to continue as long as the midsummer sun continues to shine.

Midsummer is one of the most beloved of Scandinavian holidays, a glorious time for people of the North countries who have endured the dark days of a long, cold winter. For Astoria and its large Scandinavian popu-

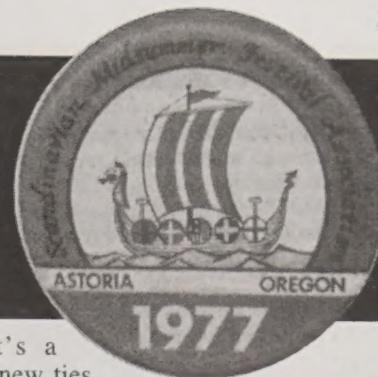
lation, it's a time to renew ties with the Old Country.

Locals and visitors from around the world will celebrate the return of sunshine and warmth at the 35th annual Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival June 21-23 at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds. Held in previous years at Astoria High School, the move less than five minutes away allows for more booths, more entertainment and better parking. The fairgrounds will be decorated with birch branches and wildflowers will grace booths full of authentic handicrafts and Scandinavian delicacies. A continuous program of folk dancing and musicians will provide colorful entertainment. Special guests include honored local immigrants and Norwegian Fjord Horses, making their debut appearance at the festival.

Because popular demand, the Scandinavian Festival will open its doors earlier than usual this year. Some booths will be open for business as early as 2 p.m. Friday. The grand kick-off happens at 7:30 p.m. Friday with the selection and crowning of Miss Scandinavia 2002. After the coronation, festivalgoers can follow the queen and her court in a torchlight parade to the bonfire to burn hexes for good luck. Then it's time to dance the night away doing the polka, waltz, hambo, schottische ... and maybe even a Chicken Dance or two. Adults who work up a thirst can avail themselves of the beer garden provided by The Wet Dog Café.

Saturday's schedule starts with the annual Clatsop Realtors' Breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m., a fund raiser for local student scholarships. Festival booths open at 10 a.m., which is also when the traditional "Optog" walking parade greets Astoria along Commercial Street, weather permitting. The 2002 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Court, colorful costumes, flags, dancers and a troll or two are highlights of this event. The Swedish Order of Vasa provides a Pea Soup Lunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Official opening ceremonies, featuring the flag raising and Midsummer Pole raising, take place at 12:15 p.m. Saturday. Highlighting the rest of the day of music and merriment are the Scandinavian Dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and featured entertainment by



Continued on page 30

2002 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

- 2 p.m. Festival booths open
 7:30 p.m. Coronation of Miss Scandinavia 2002
Dusk Torchlight Parade and Hex Burning Bonfire
6 p.m. to midnight Beer Garden provided by The Wet Dog Café
9 p.m. to midnight Queen's Ball

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

- 7 to 11 a.m.** Clatsop Realtor's Breakfast (scholarship fund-raiser)
10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Festival booths open
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Barnefest (fun activities for children)
10 a.m. "Optog" walking parade through downtown Astoria (weather permitting)
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pea Soup Lunch sponsored by the Swedish Order of Vasa
12:15 p.m. Flag Raising Ceremony and Midsummer Pole Raising
Noon to midnight Beer Garden provided by The Wet Dog Café

SATURDAY, JUNE 22 (cont.)

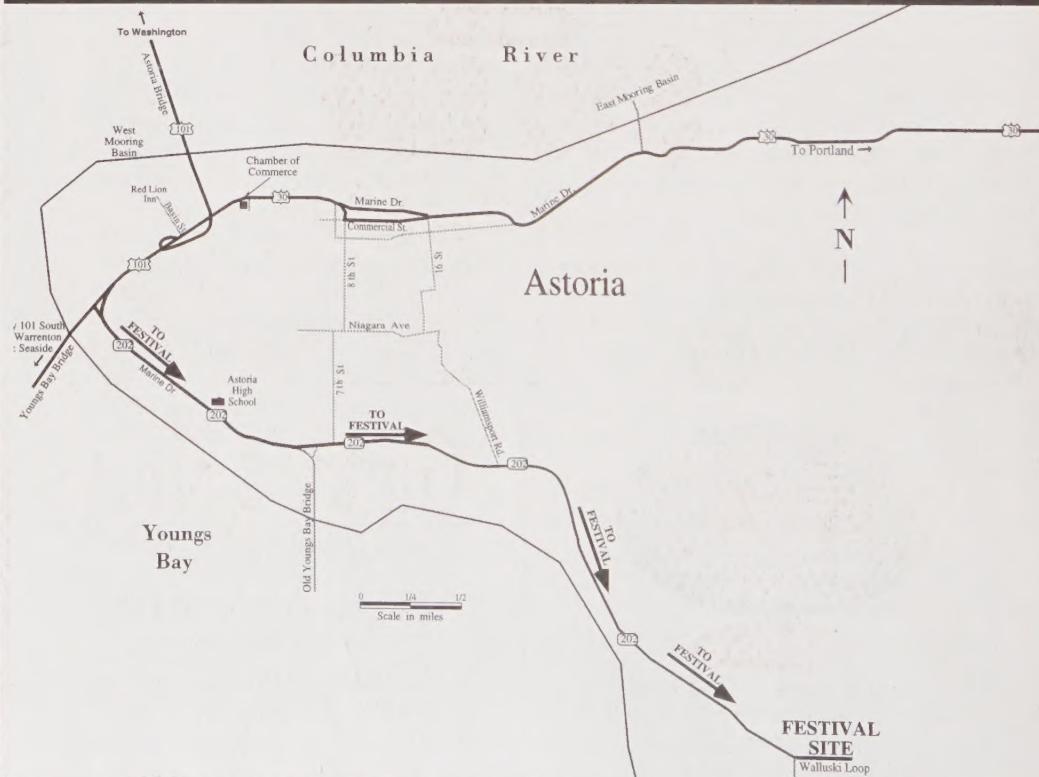
- 1 to 6 p.m.** Continuous entertainment
4:30 to 7 p.m. Scandinavian Dinner sponsored by the Swedish Order of Vasa
7:30 p.m. Featured entertainment: Accordionist Brent Buswell and Introduction of Honored Immigrants
9 p.m. to midnight Public Dance featuring the Kaare Nielsen Trio

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

- 8:30 to 11 a.m.** Pannukakku Brunch sponsored by the Astoria Rotary Club
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Festival booths open
11 a.m. Interdenominational Worship Service
2 to 3 p.m. Featured entertainment: Accordionist Brent Buswell
1 to 4 p.m. Continuous entertainment
4 p.m. Closing Ceremony and Raffle Drawing

2002 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival

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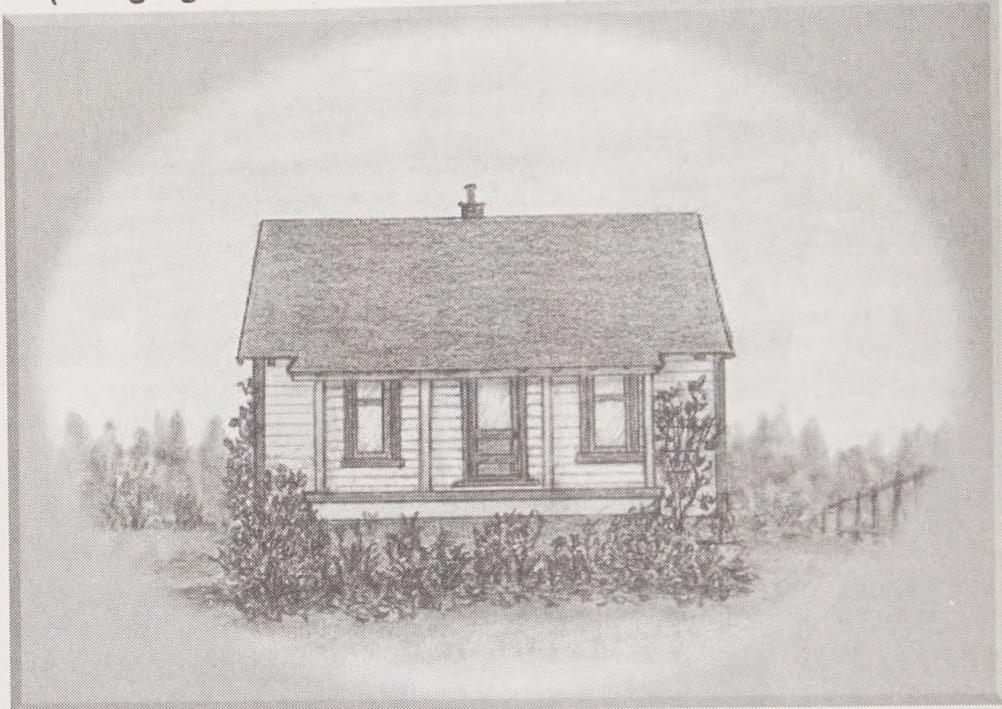
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As a little girl I sat quietly in the audience as the Scandinavian Court presented their speeches each year, hoping that one day I would have that same opportunity to say what my heritage means to me. After being asked to be Junior Miss Denmark in 1992 and living in the hype of the Scandinavian Festival, I was more than ready to be Miss Denmark, not knowing what still awaited me.

The Scandinavian Festival has played a significant role in my life, ever since I was a young child. I have been dancing in the Viking/Nordic Dancers since the second grade, and for the past three years, I have sung the Danish national anthem at the festival. I have not missed a Scandinavian Festival yet, and I don't look forward to the time I do.

My Danish heritage comes from my father's side of the family. My grandma's great-grandfather, Jens Peter Benson, was born and raised in Bornholm, Denmark. He was the oldest, and only son, of four children. At the age of 20, Jens was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, along with his parents and sisters. After joining the church, he and his family decided to leave Denmark in search of better opportunities. In 1852, leaving everything behind except their faith, the Benson family boarded a ship bound for the United States. The family later settled in Newton, Utah, which is where my grandmother was raised. After coming to the Svensen area to work in her brother's store, she met a handsome young man and decided to stay here.

I have had a wonderful year representing the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival as Miss

2001 QUEEN'S FAREWELL

2001 ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL



2001 MISS SCANDINAVIA

KRISTIN OJA

Scandinavia 2001. It has truly been an honor, and an extra bonus for one more year. There have been many opportunities where I have shared with others about my heritage and what it means to me.

I recently finished my first year at Brigham Young University – Idaho, in Rexburg, Idaho. My major is General Studies, but I plan to go into the medical field, and possibly become a pharmacist. During my first year of college I was a member of the BYU-Idaho track and field team, where I threw the javelin. I was also a member of the BYU-Idaho water polo club team. I am planning to go back this fall.

I would like to thank the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Association and the Lower Columbia Danish Society for giving me their support and these last two wonderful years. Also to my family, Alan and Carla Oja, for their love and support and for their guidance throughout my life, my grandparents, Owen and Mozelle Oja of Astoria for doing the genealogy, and my grandparents, George and Fay Lamphiear, of Chehalis, Wash., for their love and support. I was raised to appreciate my heritage and ancestors and know what they went through to get us here so that we could live in this free nation. Knowing about my heritage and ancestors is important to me because they play an important role in my eternal future.

This last year has been such an honor and a blessing to me. It is something that I will be able to remember for the rest of my life, and share with others as well. Thank you for a great year!



Submitted by SANDY KALANDER

**2002 ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN
MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL COURT**



**MISS DENMARK
JENNIFER LACY**

Senior Miss Denmark is Jennifer Lacy. She is the daughter of Kathryn and Mark Lacy of Astoria. Lacy is a senior at Astoria High School and is drum major of the AHS Marching Band, a member of the wind symphony, jazz band, Port City Singers and FFA. Her other interests include 4-H, Sea Scouts, North Coast Symphonic Band and song leader at her church.

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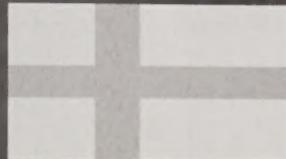
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Submitted by SANDY KALANDER

2002 ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN
MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL COURT



**MISS FINLAND
SARAH SEEBORG**

Senior Miss Finland is Sarah Seeborg, a senior at Astoria High School. She is a member of the dance team, Key Club and wind symphony who enjoys dance, music and travel. Seeborg is the daughter of Gary and Linda Seeborg.



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Festival
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Submitted by SANDY KALANDER

Senior Miss Norway is Katie Lane. Lane is a second-year student at Clatsop Community College and the daughter of Nancy and Robert Lane Jr. She belongs to Venture Crew 330 and the Scandia Dance Group. A performer with the Viking-Nordic Dancers and enthusiastic supporter of Scandinavian Festival activities, Lane has also traveled to Norway and attended Norwegian language camp in Gearhart.

2002 ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL COURT



MISS NORWAY
KATIE LANE

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Submitted by SANDY KALANDER

Senior Miss Sweden is Elizabeth "DeeDee" Arnall, a member of the Vasa Lodge in Astoria and the daughter of Doug and Terry Arnall. Her hobbies are shopping, movies and sports, including volleyball, basketball and track at an All-Star level. Arnall is a senior at Warrenton High School and was Junior Miss Sweden.

2002 ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN
MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL COURT

MISS SWEDEN
ELIZABETH "DEEDEE" ARNALL

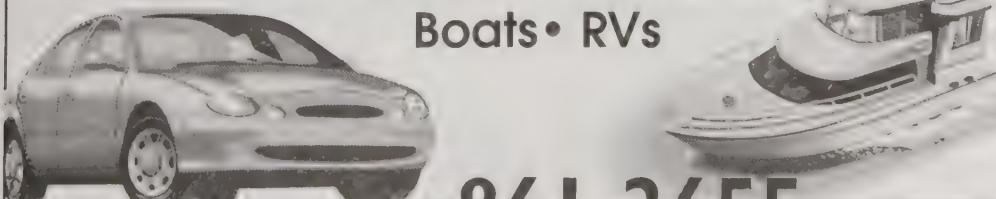


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2002 ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN
MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL
JUNIOR COURT

**JUNIOR
MISS DENMARK**

Submitted by SANDY KALANDER

Andrea Jeremiah is Junior Miss Denmark. She is the daughter of Jeff and Kim Jeremiah of Astoria. A second-grader at John Jacob Astor Elementary School, Jeremiah enjoys reading, writing and spending time with friends. She likes collecting dolls, riding horses, jumping rope and learning about her Danish heritage.



2002 ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN
MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL
JUNIOR COURT

**JUNIOR
MISS FINLAND**

Submitted by SANDY KALANDER

Emmi Collier is Junior Miss Finland. She is the daughter of Leila and Mike Collier of Warrenton. Her interests include soccer, reading, T-ball, Scandinavian dancing, singing, piano and P.E. Collier is a second-grader at Warrenton Grade School where she has participated in the talent show and enjoys reading, math and spelling.

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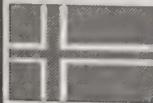
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2002 ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN
MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL
JUNIOR COURT

JUNIOR MISS NORWAY

Submitted by SANDY KALANDER

Krista Higgins is Junior Miss Norway. She is a second-grader at Warrenton Grade School. She helps her grandmother with krumkakker each year and is the official taster. The daughter of Brenda Higgins and granddaughter of Merv and Kathy Helmerson, Higgins said she is looking forward to a fun festival and becoming more involved in her Norwegian heritage.



2002 ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN
MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL
JUNIOR COURT

JUNIOR MISS SWEDEN

Submitted by SANDY KALANDER

Meg Dowaliby is Junior Miss Sweden. She is the daughter of Todd and Dixie Dowaliby and a second-grader at Warrenton Grade School who enjoys reading, science and art. Dowaliby enjoys ballet, tap, piano, soccer and softball, as well as Scandinavian dancing with the Nordic dancers and playing with her younger sisters.

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Submitted by SANDY KALANDER

2002 ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL COURT
OFFICIAL CROWN BEARER



Caleb Cunningham is the 2002 Crown Bearer. He is 7 years old. He is the son of Allison Lyngstad and James Cunningham. He enjoys soccer and has a great interest in books. Cunningham likes to ride his bike and play with his brother.



2002 ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN
MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL
COURT

**SENIOR COURT
CHAPERONE**

Submitted by SANDY KALANDER

Senior Court Chaperone is Joanne Hellberg of Warrenton, a retired teacher of the Warrenton/Hammond School District. Hellberg tutors students, is a surrogate parent at the Oregon Youth Authority and a member of Sons of Norway, Vasa Lodge and Peace Lutheran Church. Her heritage is Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian. Hellberg is married to Dick Hellberg and has two grown sons and two grandchildren. She said she is looking forward to a busy year with four very busy young ladies.



2002 ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN
MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL
JUNIOR COURT

**JUNIOR COURT
CHAPERONE**

Submitted by SANDY KALANDER

Junior Court Chaperone Bernadeth Ladd was active in Scandinavian dancing before marrying Kevin Ladd. Her national heritage is from the Philippines and she enjoys an active life with her nieces and nephews. Ladd's hobbies are dancing, volleyball, kite flying, arts and crafts, biking, the Scandia Dance group and Kite Club. She has been a driving force behind the children's events at the Scandinavian Festival and co-chairwoman of the Barnefest.

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ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

PAST SCANDINAVIAN QUEENS

1968	Marjorie Yost	1985	Marja Leena Tila
1969	Carol Johansen	1986	Donna Brunner
1970	Sirpa Perkiomaki	1987	Shari Fay
1971	Melissa Hill	1988	Saara Carlson
1972	Rhonda Lammi	1989	Josie Hemeon
1973	Judy Angberg	1990	Kristen Jacobsen
1974	Marianne Larson, crowned Linda Sjoblom, reigned	1991	Melissa Rose
1975	Karen Niemi	1992	Allea Thomas
1976	Kim Tinner	1993	Jenny Gustafson
1977	Gail Norman	1994	Amy Goin
1978	Tina Hess	1995	Kerry Stevenson
1979	Susan Edison	1996	Niina Salo
1980	Leila Koskela	1997	Jaclyn O'Bryant
1981	Sigrid Ness	1988	Caryn Nelson
1982	Cheryl Cruzan	1999	Amanda Caldwell
1983	Julie Lampa	2000	Briita Lynn Blair
1984	Ann Madsen	2001	Kristin Oja

TAL DANSKI PUUUTAAN SUOMEAI SNAKK NORSKI TALA SVENSKAI

LET'S TALK SCANDINAVIAN



Strike up a conversation with others in a Scandinavian language. You may find yourself singing a few simple songs, too!

The Let's Talk Scandinavian event, introduced to the festival in 1999 by Myrtle and Judie Dreyer of Astoria, gains more interest every year.

This is not a language lesson, just an opportunity

for anyone, Scandinavian or not, to get together with others and converse in Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish. There will be at least one person from each of the "old countries" to keep the conversation rolling, and all levels of fluency are most welcome. Drop by for just a few minutes or stay for the whole hour.

SATURDAY

- 1 to 1:55 p.m. Danish
- 2 to 2:55 p.m. Swedish
- 3 to 3:55 p.m. Norwegian
- 4 to 4:55 p.m. Finnish

ICELANDERS ARE WELCOME ANY TIME!

TERVETULOA!

VELKOMMEN!

VÄLKOMMEN!

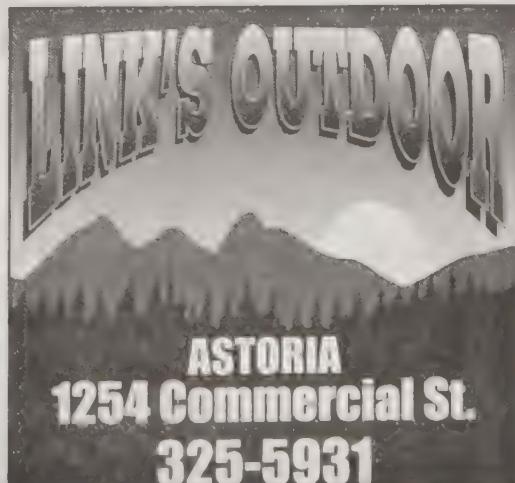
Welcome to the 2002 Scandinavian Festival



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Festival

Vendors & Exhibitors

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- 2. Bar-A-Pottery
- 3. Norwegian Rosemaling
- 4. Krumkake & Tarts
- 5. Scott Giellish
- 6. Handcrafted by Carl
- 7. Little Tree
- 8. Scandia Imports
- 9. Almond Delight
- 10. Desiree of Sweden
- 11. Skandia Hus
- 12. Dollcraft by Ellen Marie
- 13. Finnish Brotherhood
- 14. Hearts & Flowers
- 15. Nordiskal
- 16. Ocean Seafoods
- 17. Blue Ice Designs
- 18. B&M Concessions
- 19. Lindco
- 20. Friendship Farm
- 21. Danish Society
- 22. The Bohrers
- 23. Scandinavian Workshop
- 24. Bobbie Berg
- 25. T&M Enterprises
- 26. Sons of Norway
- 27. Swedish Roots
- 28. Seafood School
- 29. Catholic Daughters
- 30. Finn Trade
- 31. Finn Ware
- 32. KMUN
- 33. Chris Allen
- 34. VASA
- 35. Rustic Images
- 36. Doris Andrews
- 37. Rotary
- 38. Café de la Rue
- 39. KCYS
- 40. Hoodland Crafts
- 41. Sand Dollar Deli
- 42. Viking Nordic Dancers
- 43. Raffle Booth
- 44. Tonny Blair
- 45. Inkeri of Finland
- 46. Lah Ti Da
- 47. Rocknes
- 48. Phun Photos
- 49. Gem-N-I
- 50. Carols Beading
- 51. Finlandia Foundation

VIKING HALL



ENTERTAINMENT
MEALS
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
NIGHT DANCES

Outdoor Booths



JUNE
21, 22, 23

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BARNEFEST
SATURDAY
ONLY

Booths

Entrance

STOCKHOLM
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Norwegian Fjord
Horses



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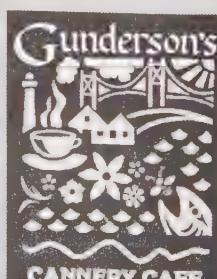
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2002 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival

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THE SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL FEATURES ONGOING
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BEER GARDEN

"Olie's Grog and Grub"
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FRIDAY

8 p.m. to midnight J.T. Walker Wagon

SATURDAY

2 to 5 p.m. Jorgen
5 to 8 p.m. Hey Guys & Gals
8 p.m. to midnight J.T. Walker Wagon

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

OUTSIDE AREA

1 p.m. Norwegian Fjord Horse
Exhibition

OUTDOOR STAGE

1 to 2 p.m. Nordic Dancers
Viking Dancers
Scandia Dancers
Astoria
2 p.m. Aitvaras Dance Group
Camas, Wash./Portland
2:30 p.m. Katrille Finnish Folk
Dancers
Seattle
3 p.m. Parade of Native
Costumes
Nordlys
Hillsboro
3:45 p.m. Nordlys
Hillsboro
4:15 p.m. Tanhaujat Finnish Folk
Dancers
Seattle
5 p.m. Leikkerringen Dancers
Portland

INDOOR EXHIBIT HALL

2 p.m. Finnish Choral Society
of Seattle featuring
Maarit
Vaga
3 p.m. Livikat Northwest
Kantele Players
Portland Finnish Choir
3:45 p.m.

INDOOR AREA

1 p.m. Katrille Finnish Folk
Dancers
Seattle
Nordlys
Hillsboro
Tanhaujat Finnish Folk
Dancers
Seattle
Leikkerringen Dancers
Portland
Aitvaras Dance Group
Camas, Wash./Portland
Nordic Dancers
Viking Dancers
Scandia Dancers
Astoria

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

OUTSIDE AREA

Noon Norwegian Fjord Horse
Exhibition

INDOOR AREA

1 p.m. Nordic Dancers
Viking Dancers
Scandia Dancers
Astoria
2:30 p.m. Hey Guys & Gals
Aloha

INDOOR EXHIBIT HALL

11 a.m. to noon Traditional Scandinavian
Church Service
12:45 p.m. Portland Finnish Choir
1:30 p.m. Maarit Vaga
Seattle
2:15 p.m. Spirit Sing! directed by
Alexandra Myers
Astoria
2:40 to 3:40 p.m. Accordionist Brent
Buswell
Vermont
4 p.m. Closing Ceremony

ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL HISTORY

The following is an excerpt of an article written by Astorian Bruce Berney, and originally read to the coronation assembly at the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival June 21, 1969. Berney, who directed the Astoria Public Library for 30 years before retiring, researched library material to prepare the article.

A study of the origins of midsummer festivals reveals that all European peoples share in this folklore. The celebrations of Whitsunday, May Day, Midsummer's Eve and St. John's Eve originated 2,000 or 3,000 years ago with the worship of trees and fire.

It is easy to imagine that the ancients noticed that although humans succumb to the withering of old age, a tree withers in the fall but is reborn in the spring. Therefore, it possesses a kind of immortality.

Dancing around the Maypole became the favorite spring activity for the happy English during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. But during Puritan times it was discouraged. In 1583, it was described as a pastime of Satan, the prince of Hell. Maypoles were destroyed and the custom did not continue to develop there as it did in Scandinavia.

Crowning the Midsummer's Day queen as we do in Astoria is no new thing. In a parish of Denmark, it used to be the custom at Whitsuntide to select a little girl to be the Whitsun Bride. She was dressed up in her

mother's wedding gown and a crown of spring flowers. A little boy, chosen for her groom, was bedecked with ribbons.

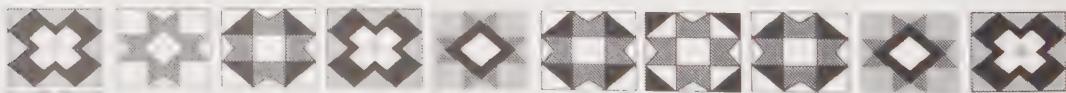
With other children, baskets in hand, they would form a procession and march from farm to farm begging for contributions of eggs, butter, loaves, cream, coffee sugar and tallow candles. When they had made the round, some of the farmers' wives would help them prepare a wedding feast, after which they would dance until the birds began to sing.

In parts of Norway and Sweden, a young woman chosen to be the Midsummer's Bride selects her own groom, and for the season, they are regarded by the community as man and wife.

Although somehow the Swedish customs association with Midsummer festivals have become the most famous, we must give credit for the origin of the Midsummer fires to Norway. The most beloved and beautiful of the old Norse gods was the tree-spirit Balder, son of the great god Odin. His death was foretold, so the council of gods took an oath to ensure his safety from the elements of fire and water, from all metals, trees, sicknesses, poisons and beasts that they would not hurt him.

The gods rejoiced that Balder was now safe. But Loki, the mischief maker, found that the young plant mistletoe had not taken the oath. Throwing it at Balder caused him

Continued on page 21



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ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL FESTIVAL HISTORY



Continued From Page 20

to die instantly. The gods then cremated his body, along with that of his wife, who had died of grief.

Midsummer fires are considered to be the ritual re-enactment of the cremation of Balder. In ancient times, lots were drawn to choose which man of the community would represent the god and be burned on the fire. In later times, however, the representative would merely lie down near the fire and pretend to be sacrificed, or used a dummy for a proxy. Now it is common for brave souls to jump over the fire, believing it will bring good luck.

There are two theories on the benefits of the ritual fire. One is that it is a sun charm which prolongs the season of light and

growth. The other is that fire purifies and disinfects, thus producing a good climate for growing crops. The Swedes believe that dancing around the fires is protection from the trolls.

The Norwegians light their bonfires and stay up until the early sun rises. The Finns arrange their annual vacations to fall at this time and make pilgrimages to their family homes for reunions. It is a popular time for weddings, and the views of fields of lily-of-the-valley and mountain ash trees inspire a profound love of country.

Perhaps we think of Astoria's annual festival as merely a recollection of old country traditions. Instead, we should regard it as a significant part of our enjoyment of life in this century. It is important that we come together for good food and fun.

ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL TORCHLIGHT PARADE AND HEX BONFIRE

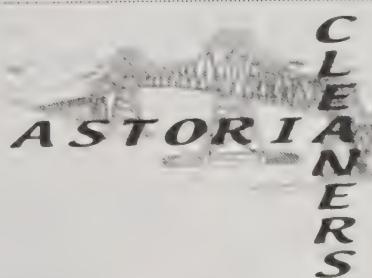


Immediately following a short photo session of the Court, the Scandia Dancers and a parade of musicians will lead the Court in a torchlight procession to the bonfire for the traditional hex burning ceremony and community singalong.

According to Scandinavian folklore, tossing straw hexes into the flames of the bonfire brings good luck and freedom from evil spirits to those who pitch a

straw doll into the fire.

During the preparations for the 1980 Midsummer Festival, the hexes were nowhere to be found, and consequently, none were tossed into the fire. This may be the reason why Leila Koskela, Miss Scandinavia 1980, had a terrible time keeping her crown on. The straw hexes are made each year by the Scandinavian Festival Court and volunteers.



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ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL HONORED FINNISH IMMIGRANT

Kati Tuominen

I was born Kati Hyvärinen in Viipuri at the end of World War II. I had to leave Karelia being only 1 week old because the Russians took Karelia from Finland.

I lived in Munkkiniemi, Helsinki, where I graduated from the Helsinki University.

I met my husband, Jaakko Tuominen, in the Finnish Lapland. He was known as "Jaska" and was a Finnish double Olympian runner (440 meter hurdles).

It was Jaakko's idea to move to the U.S.A. He was given a track scholarship in the states. I was given a graduate scholarship, and we both got our master of science degrees in the U.S.A. in 1971.

At that point, we moved back to Helsinki. The Tuominen family lived 20 years back in Finland. I worked as a director of management consulting for Executive Search and Jaakko was the manager of Nike Distribution/Finland.

Two sons and a daughter were born into the family, Jarkko, Jutta and Kaisa.

In 1991, Jaakko wanted to move the family to the U.S.A. to Portland, close to the Nike headquarters in Beaverton, where he later worked. I had studied athletic massage, so we traveled with Nike athletes to sports events like the Boston Marathon, etc. I gave massages to very good athletes – one of them won the Boston Marathon three times.

Four years ago Jaakko and I moved to the Oregon Coast. We bought the Rose River Inn Bed & Breakfast in Astoria. We found the beauty of Astoria and a new Finnish family – the loving and supporting group of Astoria Finns! This support has been enormous, especially since Jaakko died in late 2001.

I would like to thank the Finnish Brotherhood Lodge for this special recognition.

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ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL HONORED NORWEGIAN IMMIGRANT



Kaare M. Nielsen

Born March 7, 1923 in Sand, Rogaland, Norway. The nearest big city is Stavanger.

There are many happy memories of my childhood in Sand. Sand is located next to Sandsfjorden, so the children were closely watched when playing near the water. The Nielsen children were encouraged to learn to swim at an early age. I remember building a kayak with another boy and having to be rescued from the middle of the fjord when the boat began leaking water. During the winter months, the fjord often froze over so there was ice skating and racing amongst the boys. Of course, every Norwegian learns to ski when still very young. Some of my happiest memories are of Sundays spent hiking to the top of nearby mountains with the boys and girls in Sand and skiing back down. There were many cousins in Sand to play with, and we all enjoyed good times at our grandfather's hotel, especially Christmas when the children were allowed to climb to the third floor and slide on the banister all the way back down to the first floor.

In Norway, I worked with my dad and uncle. My father had what was called a water taxi (a boat). I often took the doctor and veterinarian as they made calls on people living out along the fjord. The water taxi was also used for hauling huge log rafts, not a pleasant job as the boat moved so slowly through the water due to the weight of the logs. As soon as I got my driver's license, I started driving truck, both for my dad and myself. I also drove a taxi in Sand. I remember one job involving hauling meat from Sand to the east coast of Norway. On a recent trip to Norway, I could not believe

how narrow those twisting, winding, steep roads were.

I was serving aboard a sailing ship out of Bergen that was a merchant marine training ship when the Germans declared war on England. The ship was immediately called back to Norway, and I returned to Sand. I was still a teen-ager when the Germans invaded Norway, and during the course of the occupation, I assisted my uncle Nick in smuggling guns in his boat to members of the underground. I was conscripted by the Germans to work in a couple of their work camps during the war.

The day it was announced that the Germans had surrendered, the Nielsen family was the first family to appear on the streets of Sand with their own car. When they had heard the Germans were coming to Sand at the beginning of the occupation, my father and I removed the wheels from the car and buried them beneath the sawdust at Uncle Nick's mill. The Germans were told that the wheels had been loaned to somebody else and had not been returned.

I decided to come to the United States after the Socialist government took hold in Norway. I felt there were not many opportunities to succeed in business any more.

I actually started thinking about coming to America around 1948. A childhood friend and I first went to Canada in 1952, staying there only about a year. While in Canada, I visited my sister, Jenny, in Aloha, and made the decision to immigrate to the U.S. I returned to

Continued on page 29

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ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL HONORED SWEDISH IMMIGRANT

Susanne Benthin

My name is Susanne Benthin. I was born in Vasa, Finland in 1964. I lived in Tojby with my parents, Eskil and Jenny Osterdahl. I have two brothers, but they are older than I, and moved out when I was a little girl. The younger brother, Stig, lives in Tojby with his wife and son. My older brother, Sture, lives in Stockholm, Sweden with his wife and two daughters. My dad died almost three years ago. My mom still lives in Tojby. She comes to stay with us for three to four months every winter. My parents have been over here almost every year since I moved here.

As a child, I went to six years of grade school. There were two boys and four girls (including me) in my class. The whole grade school had 30 kids. We played soccer and track in the summertime and ice hockey, ice skating and cross-country skiing in the winter. One day, when I was about 10 years old, a man in his 80s came to our school and showed us how to orient in the woods. You have a map of the area and a compass. Some points on the map are identified and you have to find them. From then on, orienteering was my favorite sport. My two girlfriends and I went to a competition every weekend, especially in the summer.

As a youngster about 6 years old, my job was to go and get the cows from the field and herd them home. It was sometimes quite a chore. I used to think it was funny that the cows had ears but they didn't hear. At least they never listened to me when I talked to them on the walk home.

Mom and Dad had a little cottage out on an island. We had no power or septic, only a fireplace, an outhouse and of course a sauna. There was no road to this island so we had to drive there by boat. If you have ever been to Finland you know the amount of rocks. Therefore, I was very proud the day Dad let me drive the boat out to the summer cottage all by myself. From that day forward I spent as much time as I could at the summer cottage.

Dad and I used to go fishing all the time, too. He put out the nets and I would row the boat. I think I was about 7 years old when we started fishing together.

During my younger years my friends and I would ride our bikes two to five miles to go

swimming in the Baltic Sea during the summer. We used to pack a lunch and stay there all day. We thought that was the greatest. I am now amazed that nothing happened.

At the age of 12, I had to work in our greenhouse. Our greenhouse was 100 meters (approximately 100 yards) long and about 15 meters wide. We used to grow tomatoes and/or cucumbers. I did not like working there, because it was so warm and humid. That same year my dad had a very bad fall and had to lie flat in bed for three months. My brothers came home and helped out. It was the first year we had to do the haying all by ourselves. One night we were driving home with a big load of hay on a flatbed behind the tractor. I was in heaven because I got to sit on the very top of the hay. Lo and behold we met a car! My brother was trying really hard to get to the side of the road (the roads were not very wide) and the next thing I knew I ended up in the ditch among all the hay. Our load was probably a bit too big and the flatbed broke. It was a lot of work to reload all the hay and get it home. Late in the evening we made it home. A few years later we got the hay baler. The bales were so much easier to handle. In the haying season my job was always to stomp down the hay, salt it and rake the field. I loved it the most when I got to drive the tractor. As I got older I also threw the hay bales.

I went through three years of high school. By that time we had to learn several languages. I spoke Swedish at home. In third grade we started with Finnish. That was a very hard language for me to learn. In fifth grade we started English and the first year of high school, German. I graduated from high school in 1980. Unfortunately I haven't had a chance to go back for a reunion. I hope I can next time it comes around.

After high school it was time for "gymnasiet." It is a sort of community college with all the basic classes. You have to go through this school before you can continue on to the university. I graduated from there in 1983. As a graduation gift, my mom and dad gave me a trip over to the United States to stay with Mom's relatives, Elfi and John Nordgren. In June 1983 I came here for four weeks for the

Continued on page 25

ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL HONORED SWEDISH IMMIGRANT

Continued From Page 24

first time. I really enjoyed how friendly everybody was here. As I returned home, I worked in a nursing home setting for six months (the max you could do without an education). I decided nursing wasn't so bad. I applied to get into the nursing program. The waiting list was long and my chances slim. While waiting for the acceptance letter, my mom started talking about going back to Astoria to go to school for a while. At first I wasn't so sure I wanted to go because I had a boyfriend at home. I did decide to go anyhow. When my mom and dad were younger they had the passports ready to go to Canada. My mom's mother stopped my parents from going to Canada with some empty promises. I believe my mom was trying to give me the chance she never had for a better life.

As I returned to Astoria I started taking classes at Clatsop Community College. At first it was so hard. I had to sit with the dictionary all the time the first few weeks of my chem-

istry class. I eventually learned English. At first, I could not even read a menu in a restaurant. As time went on I could read and understand people, but they frequently had a hard time understanding me. There are many jokes about my mispronunciation. Anyhow, in college, I met Don. He convinced me to stay in the United States. We got married in 1985. I was accepted into the nursing program here in Astoria and graduated in 1988. In the last few years I have also learned that I was accepted into the nursing program in Finland. I doubt anything would have changed anyhow.

I have gone back to school for my B.S. degree and graduated in 2001. I have four children: Jessica is 16, Kristina is 12, John is 11 and Jeffrey is 7. We have all been back to Finland and Sweden a few times and have some wonderful memories from there. I have several aunts, uncles and cousins as well as my family who still live over there. My hope is to go and see them all very soon again.

I love the sunny days, sparkling snow and the tree branches glittering from the ice on the branches. Not at all like winters in Astoria.

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11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MENU:

Swedish Pea Soup

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COST: \$4

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Rye Bread

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ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL HONORED NORWEGIAN IMMIGRANT



Continued From Page 23

Norway where I waited for almost a year before getting permission to enter the U.S. I entered the country in January 1954. An aunt in New York was my sponsor and wanted me to stay in the big city, but I wanted no part of that and came west to Oregon.

I stayed with my sister and brother-in-law, Jenny and Fritz Tollesen, in Aloha. I stayed with them until I went to work at Timberline Lodge, where I was transportation manager for 10 years. I decided to start my own business and have been quite successful with my trucking firm, K.M. Nielsen Trucking. I presently have 30 employees and own 25 trucks and trailers. I am a contract mail hauler with the U.S. Postal Service. Two of my trucks are seen every day bringing mail from Portland to Astoria, Warrenton, Hammond and Seaside, and returning with mail back to Portland.

I also carried mail in Norway. One of my memories was traveling by skis on the frozen fjords with the mail sack slung across my back. During one of the trips to Norway a few years ago, an old farm was visited sitting high on a mountain overlooking a fjord. The farm is still owned by the same family that settled there in the 1500s and is now open to the public as a museum. A couple still lives there, and the woman remembers me delivering their mail to them.

I am an accomplished musician and have played accordion since I was 8 years old. My father also played accordion, as did my brother, Arvid. It is a musical family, with all three

of my sisters also being trained musicians.

I played for dances all over southwestern Norway, often traveling to nearby towns on skis with my accordion strapped to my back. Many of the dances out in the country started around 9 p.m. and weren't over until 6 or 7 the next morning. I have many wonderful memories of special wedding parties where huge tubs of rommegröt were waiting for hungry guests along with the special lefse made in the different areas. Incidentally, the lefse from that part of Norway is not made with potatoes!

My trio and I have played for the Scandinavian Festival since its inception, and I miss very few of the activities. I also played with the popular stage and recording group, The Midnight Sons.

I am married to Joyce Wicklund Nielsen (Swedish descent), and we live in Aloha. I am the father of five children, Katrina Nielsen Parde, Rebecca Nielsen, Kristine Nielsen, Laura Nielsen and Nick Nielsen. All five of the children lived most of their childhood years in Brownsmead and were educated in the Astoria area. I was one of five children. Two of my sisters live in the Beaverton area, Jenny Tollesen and Maalfrid Yountz. My sister Ruth is still in Sand, and my younger brother, Arvid, is deceased. I have visited Norway many times. Joyce and I were most recently there in September 2001, visiting my sister Ruth and many cousins and friends in Sand. Visits are also made to Stavanger, where my deceased brother's family lives.

All of my hopes and dreams have come true, thanks to hard work and the support of a good wife and loving family.

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Welcome

Continued From Page 3

accordionist Brent Buswell at 7:30 p.m., along with the introduction of honored immigrants. A public dance to the music of the popular Kaare Nielsen Trio rounds out the evening. The beer garden will be open from noon to midnight Saturday.

On Sunday, the Astoria Rotary Club's Pannukakku Brunch takes place from 8:30 to

11 a.m. and an interdenominational worship service is held at 11 a.m. Festival booths will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Brent Buswell takes the stage again from 2 to 3 p.m.

Raffle tickets will be available for purchase throughout the festival, with the grand prize of two round-trip plane tickets to Scandinavia. The winning tickets will be drawn during the closing ceremony at 4 p.m. Sunday.

Festival admission is \$6 for an adult three-day souvenir button, \$1 for children ages 6 to 12 and free for kids younger than 5. A weekend parking pass is \$2.

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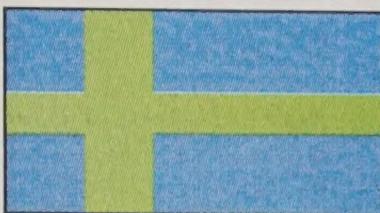
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Scandinavian Flags



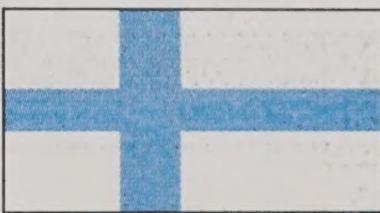
DENMARK

Denmark is not only the oldest kingdom in the world today, it also has the world's oldest flag, the Dannebrog, red with a white cross. As the oldest flag in Scandinavia, the Dannebrog provided the pattern for the other Scandinavian flags. According to legend, it descended "as a sign from heaven" in 1219, turning defeat into victory for the Danish crusaders. The Dannebrog celebrated its 750th anniversary in 1969. The Danes use every festive opportunity to fly their flags and this year's Midsummer Festival will be no exception.



SWEDEN

The Swedish flag is a yellow cross on a light blue field. There are many reasons for the Swedish flag being blue and yellow. They are the outstanding colors in the northern land. The flowers, the lakes, yellow cornfields against the blue of a summer's sky and the blue eyes and blonde hair of the girls. They are the same today as when the flag was first raised above Swedish soil.



FINLAND

Finnish heraldry dates to the 16th century. Battle flags were displayed on equal basis with the Swedish armed forces during this period. When Finland became a grant duchy under Russia, it was allowed the privilege of flying its own flag, similar to the present-day flag of a blue cross on a white background. The present standard was adopted in 1918 after Finland's independence from Russia. The blue signifies the sky and lakes of Finland and the white, a blanket of snow.



NORWAY

The Norwegian flag, first approved for use by merchant ships in 1821, became the national flag in 1898. The red field bears a blue cross superimposed on a broader white cross. The cross reflects Christian tradition, which began in Norway about the time the Viking period ended.

Norway was united with Denmark for more than 400 years under the Danish flag, then transferred to Sweden at the end of the Napoleonic wars. Norwegians had several grievances, one of which was that they had no flag. In 1821, they decided to have their own flag.



ICELAND

The modern Icelandic flag came into existence in 1915. For Icelanders it is like a vision of their country's landscape. Of the three colors of the flag, the deep blue signifies the ocean, the red the fire, and the white the ice. The cross symbolizes the Christian faith, which the Nordic people have shared over a millennium. In the sign of the cross, the colors of the Icelandic flag united in a harmonious triad.



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